

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Purpose: To ensure that adequate exiting is maintained whenever shopping malls utilize mall corridors for promotional, educational, public interest, sales or similar activities.
- B. Scope: This Regulation shall apply to all shopping malls and similar type occupancies.
- C. Author: The Deputy Chief of the Prevention Services Bureau, through the Assistant Fire Chief (Fire Marshal) of the Fire Prevention Division, is responsible for the content, revision, and periodic review of this regulation.
- D. Definitions:
 - 1. Allowable-Use Area shall mean the area approved to conduct activities in accordance with this regulation after the minimum areas necessary for main aisles (20') and cross aisles (15') have been established. Existing seats, planters, concessions and other amenities shall be contributory to the area allowed for planned activities.
F.C. 3504.1, F.C. 3504.2
 - 2. Covered Mall Building is a single building enclosing a number of occupancies such as retail stores, drinking and dining establishments, entertainment and amusement facilities, offices and other similar uses wherein two or more tenants have an entrance into a mall.
 - 3. Cross Aisles are aisles that permit pedestrian passage from one main aisle to another through an "Allowable-Use Area."
 - 4. Main Aisle shall mean an area of a mall free of any planned activity from the frontage of tenant lease areas to the nearest projection of the "Allowable-Use Area." Main Aisles run parallel to the mall on both sides of the "Allowable-Use Area."
 - 5. Mall is a roofed or covered common pedestrian area within a covered mall building which serves as access for two or more tenants and may have three levels that are open to each other. The mall is a corridor designed to provide the primary egress for the occupants of a covered mall building.
 - 6. Assembly is the gathering together of 50 or more persons for such purposes as deliberation, education, instruction, worship, entertainment, amusement, drinking and dining or awaiting transportation. F.C. 201.1

7. Secondary Exit System shall mean all exits other than the main mall itself which have been required by the Building Code and which may be used by occupants in a panic situation.
8. Temporary Displays or Activities shall mean for not more than thirty (30) days.
9. Vehicle is any conveyance designed to transport people or cargo on land, water or air.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Owners and management of covered mall buildings are responsible for compliance with this regulation.

III. POLICY

- A. Adequate egress from a building during an emergency is paramount and is the basis for this regulation. All aforementioned activities which are conducted within mall exit corridors shall comply with this regulation. No such activities may take place without prior inspection and the subsequent issuance of appropriate permits.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Permits: No mall corridor may be used for an activity subject to this Regulation without first obtaining a permit from this department. All requests for permits shall include a description of the planned activity and a floor plan of the mall indicating the proposed placement of the activity. Requests for permits shall be submitted at least 14 days prior to the event. F.C. 105.8.m.2
- B. Basic Requirements: No activities will be permitted in malls or portions of malls, which are less than 20 feet in width. F.C. 3504.1
 1. No activities shall be conducted within 20 feet of main mall exit doors.
- C. Main Aisle shall be a minimum of 10 feet on both sides of the Allowable-Use Area, and shall have no activities conducted therein.

- D. Cross Aisles: A minimum of 10 percent of the longitudinal distance of main aisles adjacent to an activity shall be devoted to the establishment of cross aisles from one side of the mall to the other.
1. No cross aisle may be less than 15 feet in width and shall be spaced at intervals of not greater than 100 feet apart.
- E. Allowable Use Area: Permanent construction shall be noncombustible or one-hour rated. Where exposed wood is attached over the minimum required construction, it shall be fire-retardant treated.
1. Covered areas of displays, booths, concessions or the like shall not exceed 4 feet in their least dimension. F.C. 3505.3

EXCEPTIONS:

- a. The covered area is protected by an approved automatic fire extinguishing system.
 - b. Temporary seasonal displays where all materials are noncombustible or fire-retardant treated and the public cannot enter therein.
 - c. Temporary stages and platforms constructed of fire-retardant wood or noncombustible materials where no storage is permitted beneath the structures.
2. Open grid ceilings shall comply with the following:
 - a. Openings shall be 1/4-inch or larger in least dimension.
 - b. The thickness or depth of the materials shall not exceed the least dimension of the openings.
 - c. The opening shall constitute at least 70 percent of the area of the ceiling material.
 3. All drapes, drops, skirting and all other materials that would tend to increase the fire and panic hazard shall be made from materials which are not flammable or shall be treated and maintained in a flame-retardant condition. Treatments used to accomplish flame-resistance shall be renewed as often as may be necessary to maintain the flame resistant effect. Materials, which do not self-extinguish within one second after being ignited, are prohibited. F.C. 3504.6 and Regulation #16.

4. Prohibited Materials: Flammable liquids, flammable gases, liquefied flammable gases, oxidizing materials and toxic or poisonous materials shall not be used, stored or displayed in mall corridors except as allowed by F.C. 3504.4.
5. Vehicles: When allowed by the Fire Code, vehicles larger than standard automobiles such as motorhomes, houseboats, etc., that have appreciable amounts of combustible materials which are obstructed from overhead sprinkler protection shall be secured in a manner which not to allow public entry. Such vehicles shall be limited to 120 square feet individually.
 - a. Fuel caps shall be keylocking or secured in a manner to prevent tampering.
 - b. Motor fuel in the vehicle tank is limited to a maximum of 5-gallons or below 1/4 full in most automobiles.
 - c. Fuel in any vessel not for the express purpose of vehicle propulsion is prohibited, i.e., propane tanks on travel trailers.
6. Temporary electrical cords on floors and located where they are subject to pedestrian traffic shall be substantially protected with devices that will prevent the transmittal of weight to the cords and yet designed in a manner which will prevent the occupants from tripping over the protected cords.

F. Assembly: Where existing or proposed use of any area or tenant lease space is utilized for the purpose of a place of assembly, all exterior and intervening exit doors shall be provided with panic hardware and may not be provided with a lock or latch which does not release by activation of the panic bar.

1. No place of assembly activity may be conducted which would accommodate more than 300 persons unless exit illumination and illumination of exit signs comply with the following:
 - a. Illumination of exit paths shall have secondary sources of power, which shall automatically energize within ten seconds after interruption of the normal electrical supply.
 - b. Illumination of exit signs shall have secondary sources of power which shall automatically energize within one second upon interruption of the normal electrical supply.

- G. Secondary Exit Systems: The maintenance of secondary exit systems is imperative at all times and should be checked whenever the mall corridor is used for alternate activities.
1. Exit passageways which serve a duplicate role as mall exits and rear service entrances to tenant spaces shall not have any material stored therein or left unattended. Rear exit doors from tenant spaces to interior passageways shall not be blocked open.
 2. Tenant lease spaces requiring rear exits (1500 square feet for retail sales areas) should be checked periodically for clear access to rear exit passageways or exterior exit doors. During periods of panic, mall occupants may attempt to exit through these areas.
 - a. Exit signs are required to all rear exits of tenant lease areas, which are required to have second exits.
 - b. Aisles shall be maintained through tenant areas. The minimum clear aisle width shall be 36 inches where tables, counters, furnishings, merchandise or other similar obstructions are placed on one side of the aisle only and 44-inches when such obstructions are placed on both sides of the aisle.
 - c. Where corridors are provided through rear storage areas of tenant spaces, no storage shall be placed in the corridors.